

Nebraska's
Family Corn
Farmers

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outpace
average salary

No livestock.
No ethanol!

Cornstalk

November 2011

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Corn Farmer's Corner

A
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of the
Nebraska
CornBoard
NebraskaCorn.org

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Nebraska's national ranking in annual corn production.

1.52

billion bushels of corn expected from the 2011 Nebraska harvest, making it the second largest corn crop in state history. (2009/1.57 billion)

9

million acres of corn harvested in Nebraska annually.

26,000

The approximate number of corn farmers in Nebraska.

The CORNerstone of Nebraska agriculture and economic vitality.

It starts each spring, as Nebraska corn farmers invest \$2.6 billion just to put the seed in the ground. And the economic impact of that investment grows right along with the corn crop.

Corn is fed to livestock that are processed into meat for a hungry world. Corn is transformed into fuel and feed in the state's 25 ethanol plants. Corn is exported from Nebraska in its raw form to California dairies, Texas feedlots and to dozens of nations around the world.

The consistent and reliable performance of Nebraska agriculture is a primary reason our state has been able to

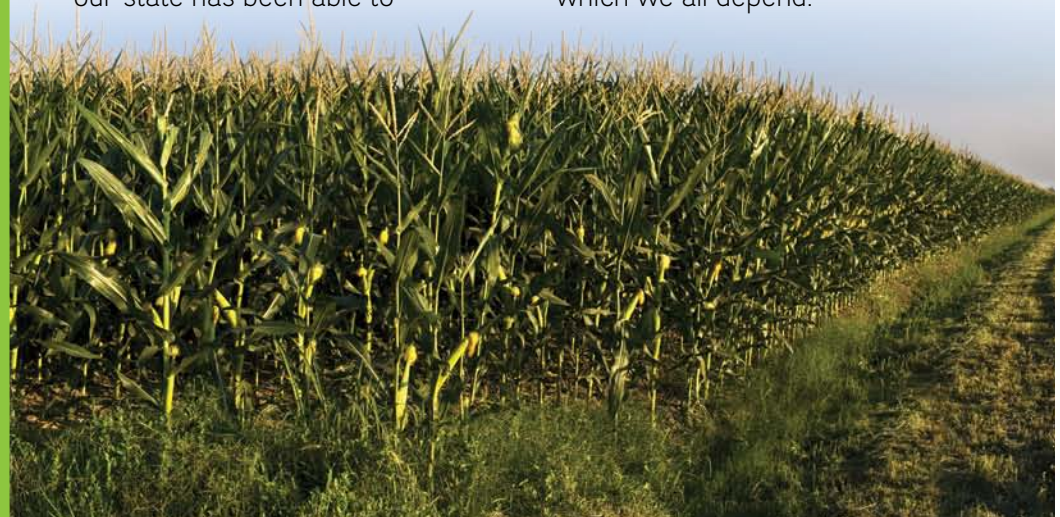
withstand economic turmoil better than many others. In fact, one in three Nebraska jobs is related to agriculture in some way.

Corn is at the core of Nebraska's agricultural success. And Nebraska's family corn farmers are using "sustaining innovation" to ensure we meet growing global demand, while protecting and preserving the precious natural resources upon which we all depend.

95% of all corn farms in America are family owned.

Bart & Shana Beattie
and Family
Sumner, Nebraska

95



How Nebraska corn farmers continue to grow more with less.

Nebraska farmers aren't just growing record amounts of corn. They are doing so on fewer acres—using less water, less energy and less fertilizer and chemicals. In fact, the average yield for the 2010 corn harvest was 166 bushels per acre—a 38-bushel increase from just eight years earlier. How can that happen? It's a combination of new ideas, innovation and just plain working smarter.

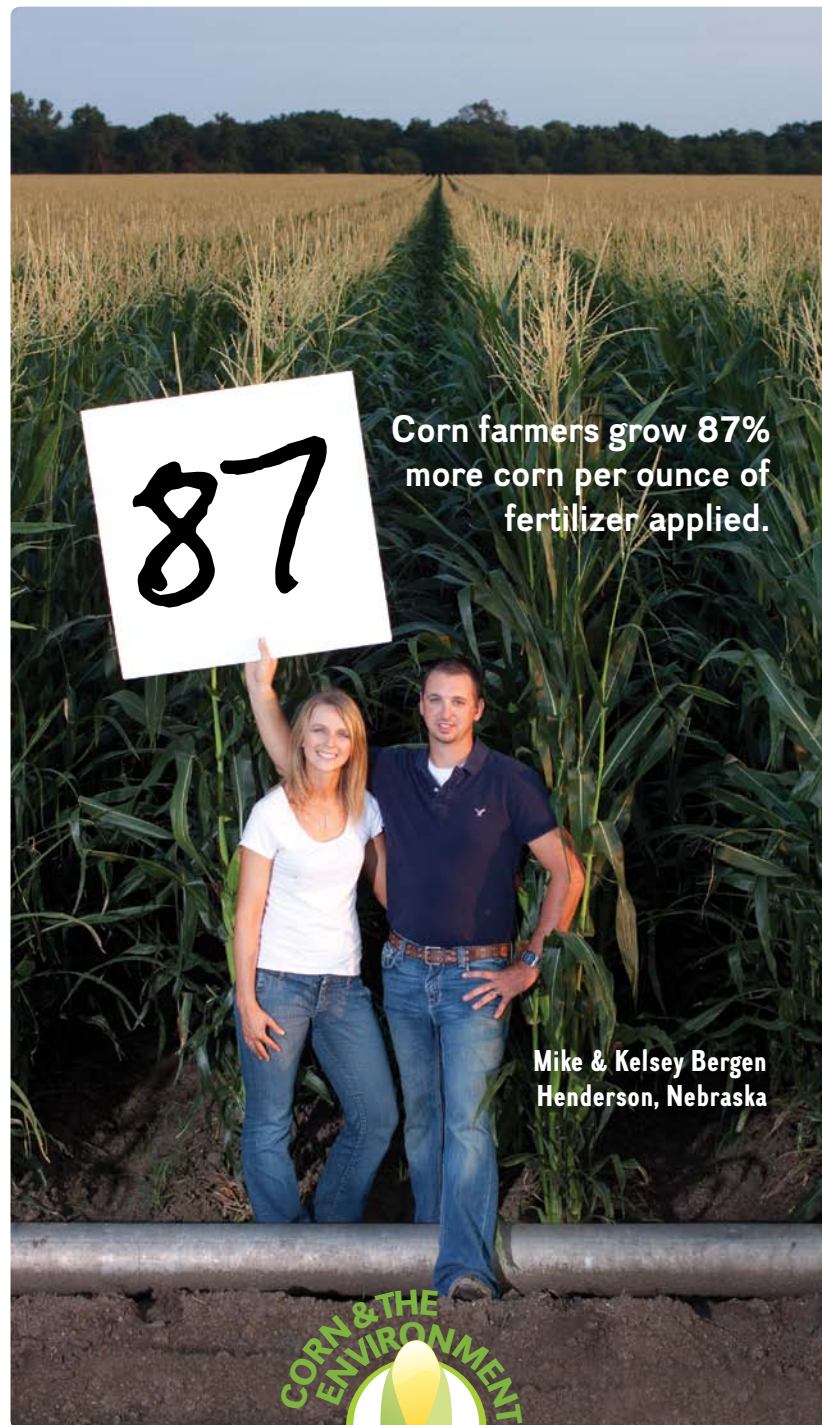
Conservation tillage You don't see many farmers using plows any more. New tillage practices focus on disturbing the soil as little as possible. That cuts back on the number of trips across the field—saving fuel and reducing soil compaction. Leaving residue, such as cornstalks, in the field conserves soil moisture, reduces soil erosion, provides nutrients and reduces irrigation and fertilizer requirements.

Advanced genetics New hybrids and genetic advancements have led to corn seeds that simply grow better under a wide variety of conditions. By continually combining the best of the best, seed geneticists are increasing the yield potential of the seeds.

Additionally, these seeds carry traits that resist pests and disease—and that not only leads to increased yields, but also helps farmers cut back on the amount of chemicals they use.

Irrigation research Did you know that corn sweats? It's called transpiration—and Nebraska farmers are working with University of Nebraska researchers to measure just how much moisture a corn crop loses during a hot spell. Soil moisture monitoring also helps farmers understand the true amount of moisture available to their crops. By knowing more, some farmers have cut back on the water they use without seriously affecting yield. That saves both water and fuel.

Precision technology A modern tractor cab is a technological marvel. GPS systems keep tractors on line to eliminate overlaps in planting and fertilizer application. Satellite mapping ensures farmers apply just the right amount of fertilizers and chemicals in just the right place. Farmers can vary planting rates and fertilizer application rates based on soil maps, yield maps and other data that streams into on-board computers from cell phone towers and satellites.



Corn farmers grow **87%** more corn per ounce of fertilizer applied.

Mike & Kelsey Bergen
Henderson, Nebraska

By the Numbers

44% Percentage by which corn farmers have cut soil erosion over the past 20 years, thanks to conservation tillage methods.

Percentage reduction in energy used to produce a bushel of corn over the past two decades. **37%**

8 Tons of greenhouse gas removed from the atmosphere by one acre of corn. That's more than your car produces annually.

While irrigation is more common in Nebraska, only **13%** of corn grown across the country receives supplemental water.

ETHANOL By the Numbers

25 Number of ethanol production plants in Nebraska.

13 The number of gallons of ethanol produced for each gallon of petroleum-based fuel used in the entire corn to ethanol lifecycle.

565 million bushels of corn consumed by Nebraska ethanol plants annually. Net after distillers grains.

\$56,158 Average annual pay in Nebraska's ethanol industry, compared to a statewide pay average of \$37,319.

1,300 Number of jobs created directly by the ethanol industry in Nebraska. Another 3,000 indirect jobs have been created, many of them in rural areas of the state.

\$30 million in local and state tax revenue created by Nebraska's ethanol industry.



Nebraska ranks second nationally in ethanol production.

Kyle & Gina Cantrell and family
Merna, Nebraska

Ethanol: Fueling Nebraska's economy and our nation's energy future.



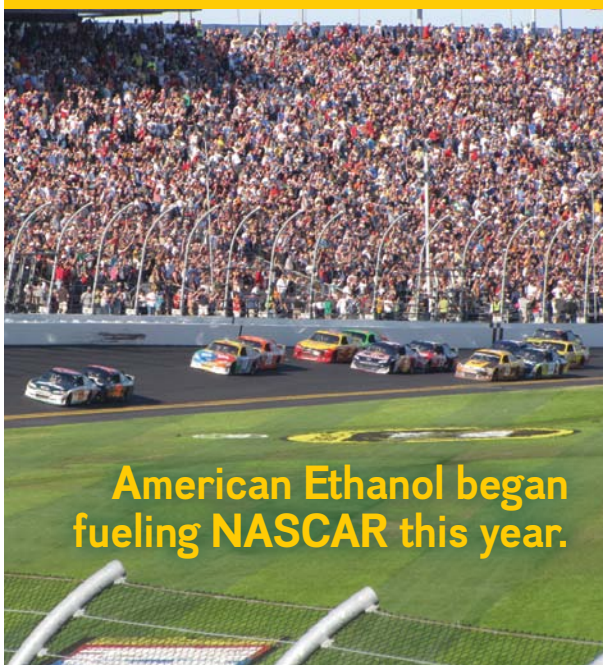
Our nation's dangerous and expensive dependence on imported oil is at the root of many challenges such as national security, economic distress and environmental concerns. On top of all that, America spends more than \$1 billion—each and every day—on imported oil. That's money headed out of this country that could be invested right here at home.

Ethanol is a significant part of the solution—providing a domestic, renewable source of clean-burning fuel that provides a market for Nebraska corn, creates local jobs and generates millions in tax revenues.

We're not using niblets to make ethanol. More than 99% of the corn grown in the U.S. is field corn, not the sweet corn humans eat. Field corn is typically

fed to livestock or transformed into ethanol (and its co-products such as animal feed and food ingredients). So we're not turning food into fuel. We're actually turning corn into fuel, feed and food!

Not just fuel, but feed—and food. Ethanol production uses only the starch in the corn kernel. The rest of the kernel becomes a high value livestock feed called distillers grains. Corn used to be fed in its raw form to livestock and it still is in many cases. Over time, livestock producers have increased the ratio of distillers grains in rations with significant positive results. Distillers grains have become a preferred feed across the U.S., helping create delicious red meat, poultry and dairy products enjoyed all over the world.



American Ethanol began fueling NASCAR this year.

Ethanol burns cooler and cleaner—and provides the reliable power these drivers need. If NASCAR is giving ethanol the green flag, you can have confidence that it will perform in your engine as well.

RU Cool 2 FlexFuel?



Blender pumps are becoming more common across Nebraska and the U.S. These pumps offer a wide range of ethanol blends for FFV owners, giving them a greater choice of fuels.



To find an E85 or blender pump location near you, visit:

www.E85refueling.com

www.flexiblefuelvehicleclub.org/buyE85.asp

www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/ethanol/ethanol_locations.html

You can also check your GPS (www.ChooseEthanol.com) or just hit your ONSTAR™ button.

Using higher blends of ethanol in our gas tanks helps our local economy, our environment and our nation's energy security. One way to use more ethanol is to drive a Flex Fuel Vehicle (FFV)—and you may already be driving one!

What is a Flex Fuel Vehicle (FFV)?

A Flex Fuel Vehicle (FFV) is one that is designed to operate on a wide range of fuel blends—from ordinary unleaded gasoline to 85% ethanol—and everything in between.

Flex Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) were introduced in 1988, but have been produced commercially since 1995. All U.S. automakers offer FFV models—and several foreign automakers do as well. Hundreds of thousands of FFVs—cars, trucks and SUVs—are on America's highways today. In Nebraska alone, more than 117,000 FFVs are registered.

How do I know if I'm driving a Flex Fuel Vehicle?

At first glance, an FFV looks like any other vehicle of the same make and model. To know if you're driving an FFV, look for the following:

- An FFV badge or insignia on your vehicle
- A sticker inside your fuel door
- A message on your gas cap (some FFVs have bright yellow gas caps)
- Information in your owner's manual

To be absolutely sure you have an FFV, you can check your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), which appears on your vehicle registration. Use this information—along with the make/model/year of your vehicle—to check against the information provided on these websites:

www.flexiblefuelvehicleclub.org/checkandsee.asp

www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/vehicles/light?fuel_type_code=E85_GSL

Can I only use E85 in my FFV?

An FFV is fully covered under warranty to use any percentage of gasoline and/or ethanol, from ordinary unleaded gasoline up to 85% ethanol. That includes E10, E20, E30, E40 and any other ethanol blend. That's what makes the vehicle "flexible." You can fill up with one fuel blend one time and with another the next—and you don't have to wait for your tank to be empty to do so!

NEBRASKA
LIVESTOCK
By the Numbers

2
Nebraska's national ranking in
cattle on feed.

6.6
Million cattle fed in Nebraska annually.

9.3
Million laying hens in Nebraska, 10th in the nation.

6
Nebraska's national ranking in hog production.

Cash receipts total \$7 billion
annually for Nebraska livestock
production, making it the largest
segment in Nebraska's economy.

7

Brent, Darin and Greg Robertson
Elsie, Nebraska



**Livestock production is
the economic engine
that drives Nebraska.
Corn is the fuel.**



Corn farmers know that livestock production is their bread and butter. Either through corn or the distillers grains that come from ethanol plants, feeding livestock is a huge customer for Nebraska corn. So Nebraska family corn farmers do their part to ensure a healthy and vibrant livestock sector in our state.

Through corn checkoff support of the U.S. Meat Export Federation, Nebraska corn farmers help promote Nebraska beef and pork around the world. Every pound of exported beef equates to 5.7 pounds of corn required to raise that animal. As the economy of emerging nations improves, their appetite for protein increases—and we want to make sure that Nebraska corn fed beef, pork and poultry is on dinner plates around the world.



**One in five hamburgers
begins in Nebraska.** More than 20% of commercial beef processing in the U.S. takes place in Nebraska. So we're adding value, creating jobs and generating revenue right here by feeding Nebraska corn and distillers grains to Nebraska cattle.



No livestock, no ethanol. Nebraska's thriving livestock industry is a primary reason our ethanol industry has grown across the state.

Ethanol producers depend on a nearby market for the distillers grains feed produced when making ethanol. If we lose livestock production, we stand a great risk of losing our ethanol industry as well.

No ethanol, no livestock.

The immediate availability of the distillers grains produced in Nebraska's ethanol plants is one reason many cattle producers from other states ship their animals to Nebraska feedlots. Distillers grains have become a feed of choice and our abundant supply attracts cattle from Montana to Texas to be fed and finished in Nebraska.

Become A-FAN. Through their checkoff, Nebraska family corn farmers support efforts to educate the public and policy makers about the importance and value of agriculture and livestock. The Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (A-FAN) is one such group. Others such as CommonGround and the Corn Farmers Coalition put real family farmers (like those shown throughout this publication) in front of consumers to tell the truth about today's farming and ranching. It's a story of environmental stewardship, the highest level of animal care and welfare, and a commitment to sustainability.



Help complete NCTA's education center



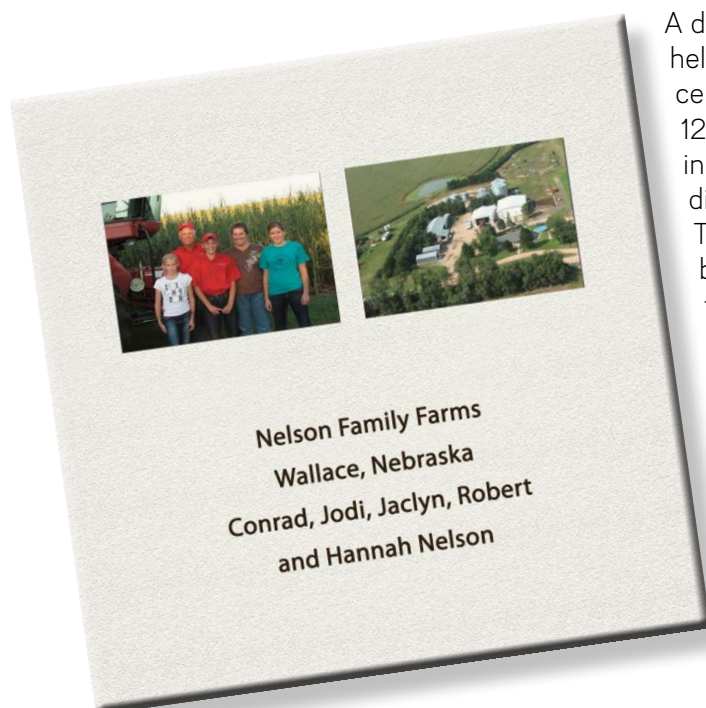
Include your family's photo, business on a Legacy Wall

The University of Nebraska–Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) campus at Curtis will never be the same!

Four new facilities are coming on line this fall: An education center, an addition to the veterinary hospital, a residence hall and a biomass project. They will benefit all future NCTA students and Nebraska agriculture as a whole.

The Nebraska Corn Board was key to the transformation of the NCTA campus by being the first major agriculture organization donor—and now farm families can leave their mark on the education center, too.

Featured in the center is a Donor Legacy Wall that celebrates the dedication of Nebraska families who built Nebraska farms, ranches and agribusinesses.



A tile similar to this sample will be proudly displayed on the Legacy Wall in the new education center. You will also receive a souvenir tile for your home or office.

A donation of \$1,000 or more will help NCTA complete the education center and gives each family a 12 by 12 inch glass tile to display in the center and another tile to display at home or the office. The gift to NCTA is critical to the building project—and creates a family keepsake for generations to come.

For more information, contact Ann Bruntz, abruntz@nufoundation.org, 402-458-1176 or visit ncta.unl.edu/giving.

Nebraska Ag Classic set for January 9-11

Registration is now open for the Nebraska Ag Classic, set for January 9-11, 2012, at the Holiday Inn in Kearney. Just go to NEAgClassic.org for registration information, trade show opportunities and other details.

While the agenda was still being developed at press time, Forest Roberts, CEO of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and member of the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance will be on hand to talk about building consumer trust in agriculture.

Sessions also include an update on current tax issues and ag information management, from precision ag data to connectivity to data standards and how those relate to USDA. Other items on the docket include an update and discussion on national agriculture policy issues, the latest in marketing information and techniques, and advancements and current issues in biotechnology.



District 1
Dave Nielsen
Lincoln, NE



District 6
Dennis Gengenbach
Smithfield, NE



District 2
Mark Jagels
Davenport, NE



District 7
David Merrell
St. Edward, NE



District 3
Curtis Friesen
Henderson, NE



District 8
Jon Holzfaster
Paxton, NE



District 4
Bob Dickey
Laurel, NE



At-large
Alan Tiemann
Seward, NE



District 5
Tim Scheer
St. Paul, NE



Nebraska Corn Board members represent the eight districts indicated on the map and are appointed by the Governor. One at-large member is elected by the other Board members.

How Nebraska's family corn farmers invest in themselves—and their customers.

Every time a Nebraska farmer sells a bushel of corn, one-fourth of one penny (\$0.0025) per bushel goes to the Nebraska Corn Board, which is comprised of nine farmer-directors who administer the Nebraska corn checkoff program. Through their checkoff, Nebraska corn farmers fund research, market development, promotions, education and policy initiatives—all designed to add value to Nebraska corn and its customers.

In spite of ranking third in corn production, Nebraska's corn checkoff rate ranks at the bottom compared to other leading corn states. As the challenges and opportunities within the corn industry and agriculture increase, funding decisions become even more difficult and many worthwhile initiatives go wanting. Nebraska corn checkoff investments include:

- Funding important research projects through the University of Nebraska and other partners.
- Developing markets for Nebraska beef, pork and poultry domestically and internationally.
- Promoting exports of Nebraska corn and corn products to customers across the globe.
- Enhancing the state's ethanol industry and supporting federal policies that favor biofuels.
- Supporting the efforts of a wide variety of agricultural groups in Nebraska including LEAD, A-FAN, CommonGround, the Nebraska Corn Growers Association, FFA, 4-H, Ag in the Classroom and many others.
- Cooperative funding with other corn states to accomplish significant projects such as the NASCAR ethanol sponsorship, national communications programs and multi-state/multi-organization coalitions designed to advance agriculture.
- Public education and promotion programs presenting science- and fact-based information about agriculture to help people understand where their food comes from—and highlight the care, responsibility and stewardship with which Nebraska's farmers and ranchers do their jobs.



Hey! This Racecar Wins with Ethanol!

Hey! This Racecar Wins with Ethanol. NASCAR driver Kenny Wallace always puts the pedal to the metal during a race—and he promotes American ethanol with the same full-speed enthusiasm. This racing season, NASCAR is using E15 as its fuel of choice. Here Kenny poses with Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman during Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island. The Governor proclaimed September as Renewable Fuels Awareness Month in Nebraska. Nebraska corn checkoff dollars have supported the NASCAR ethanol sponsorship.

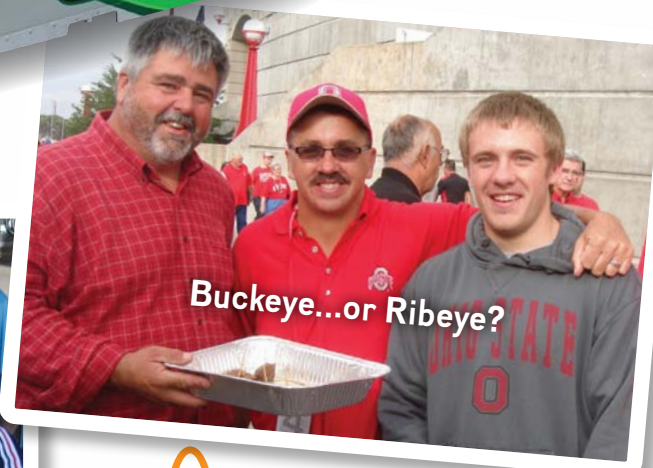
Gold Medal Guy Olympic bobsledding champion and Shelby, Nebraska native Curt Tomasevich serves as a spokesperson for Nebraska's corn farmers. As part of his duties, Curt joined a trade team to Japan as part of a U.S. Meat Export Federation mission to promote Nebraska beef, funded in part with Nebraska corn checkoff dollars.



Gold Medal Guy



Buckeye...or Ribeye? Nebraska Corn Board members and staff gave out free samples of delicious Nebraska corn fed beef at the Cornhusker-Ohio State football game in October. Skeeter Barnes and Cargill helped support the event along with Nebraska corn checkoff funds. Even die-hard OSU fans had to admit that they had never tasted better beef! Board member Jon Holzfaster of Paxton is pictured at left.



Buckeye...or Ribeye?



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NebraskaCorn.blogspot.com
NebraskaCorn.org

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